

Pōrangahau River



Key Cultural Values

Wāhi Tapu, wāhi taonga

Mahinga kai, Pā tuna

Pā, Kāinga

Rohe boundary

Table 1: List of documents reviewed

| Year | Name | Author |
|------|--|----------------------------------|
| 1992 | Pōrangahau: The formation of an eighteenth-century community in southern Hawke's Bay | Angela Ballara |
| 2003 | Archaeology of the Wellington Conservancy: Wairarapa | Department of Conservation |
| 2006 | Areas of Significant Conservation Values: HB Coastal Marine Area | Hawke's Bay Regional Council |
| 2012 | Comments from Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated on HBRC's Draft Change 5 | Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated |
| 2016 | Heretaunga Tamatea Deed of Settlement + Documents Schedule | Heretaunga Tamatea and the Crown |
| 2018 | Cultural Values Table | Hawke's Bay Regional Council |

Discussion

*Purpose of report **

1. The purpose of this report is to assist the RPC members to determine whether any of the cultural values associated with the Pōrangahau River are outstanding for the purposes of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPSFM).
2. This report presents the summarised findings of the cultural values attributed to the Pōrangahau River in those documents referred to in Table 1, above. For clarification, the Pōrangahau River has been identified as potentially outstanding for the cultural value set only. In accordance with decisions made by the RPC in May

* The HBRC and authors of this report are aware there are numerous areas, including waterbodies, where two or more iwi groups have agreed, shared interests and/or contested overlapping claims within the Hawke's Bay region. The information presented in this report is not intended to imply any exclusive rights over particular waterbodies for one or more iwi groups, nor does it confirm the validity of the claims of any group(s) over that waterbody. The information is solely for the purpose of recording important cultural and spiritual values identified by iwi groups in the region as sourced from existing published documents.

2018, this report does not discuss the recreation, landscape and ecology values associated with the Pōrangahau River.

3. The report summarises the values into a series of categories. It is recognised that isolating the values into categories can be problematic from a Māori worldview and many of the values are part of a narrative that doesn't fit neatly into categories. However, the intention is not to take a reductionist or isolated approach to cultural values but to try and gain an appreciation of their significance and the level of detail available to progress a plan change. In preparing the reports, it became obvious that all waterways are part of a wider cultural landscape that weaves people and the environment into a rich history of cultural and spiritual association.
4. Ultimately, the Regional Planning Committee will need to decide what the appropriate threshold is for outstanding cultural values. Any objectives, policies or rules that are proposed to support outstanding waterbodies will be subject to scrutiny and potential challenges by those who may be affected by a plan change.

Overview

5. The Pōrangahau River is culturally significant for the people of Heretaunga Tamatea and in particular Ngāti Kere. The cultural associations of this area extend back to the arrival of the famed chief Pōrangahau. The river is known locally to Māori as the Tāurekaitai River.
6. The Pōrangahau estuary and river were important pre-European settlements. Rich in archaeological sites, the area provided the first authenticated records of moa hunter occupation in the North Island. Vast shell middens are situated in the dune systems, and pā sites occur at either end of the estuary. At various times the people of Pōrangahau built and occupied at least 19 pā.
7. The Pōrangahau Estuary is listed as an Area of Significant Conservation Value by Hawke's Bay Regional Council. This also identifies significant cultural values around mahinga kai sites and states that 20 fishing sites existed between Pōrangahau township and the sea. The estuary continues to be an important source of flatfish, kahawai, eels and whitebait for tangata whenua.

Location

8. The Pōrangahau River runs 35 km through southern Hawke's Bay. The river winds through rugged hill country to the north of Cape Turnagain, reaching the Pacific Ocean close to the township of Pōrangahau. It has a total catchment area of 697 km².
9. The extent of the Pōrangahau River and its catchment area can be seen in Figures 1 and 2, below



Figure 1: Extent of Pōrangahau River



Figure 2: Pōrangahau Catchment

Cultural values

Importance

10. Pōrangahau and its river was an important site of Māori settlements. The Pōrangahau River is known locally to Māori as the Tāurekaitai River:

'Ko Awapūtahi te maunga, Ko Tāurekaitai te awa, ko Ngāti Kere te hapū'

11. Tāurekaitai is a significant waterway for Heretaunga Tamatea which lies at the heart of their spiritual and physical wellbeing. The river has significance as a boundary and as a food gathering source.
12. As outlined in the Heretaunga Tamatea Deed of Settlement (DOS), the cultural associations of this area extend back to the arrival of the famed chief Pōrangahau. This association passes on to his great grandson, Te Aomatarahi, and to his great grandson, Te Angiangi.
13. Angela Ballara, in a paper based on her thesis 'The origins of Ngāti Kahungunu', researched eighteenth century communities in this area. The paper notes:

Pōrangahau was a fortunate community. Its people had something of everything. Near the coast the Pōrangahau River became a lagoon, rich in freshwater and salt water species according to the tide and season. There were fishing villages associated with the community on various parts of the coast. They had much swampy ground, a source of birds, eels, and useful plants such as raupō. The river was navigable for miles inland, and a network of streams criss-crossed their territory, providing an abundance of suitable locations for eel weirs. The forest inland was a source of timber for all purposes, and of other resources such as birds, native rats, berries and wild vegetables.

Spiritual Values

14. Herangi is a mountain haunted by supernatural beings.
15. On the southern bank of the river is Opiango, a peak sacred to Ngāti Pīhere on which a pā was located.

Wāhi tapu, wāhi taonga, wai tapu

16. Taikura Rocks are wāhi tapu.
17. Wāhi tapu or burial grounds are located at Pukekaihou, Pouawatea, Pōrangahau, and Kai whi-tikitiki. Hēnare Matua named 35 people buried together there and indicated that there were many others; they belonged to the three main hapū of the community. There were also some deceased Ngāti Pakiua.

Mahinga kai

18. Ballara suggests that eighteenth-century Hawke's Bay people were highly mobile, moving between resource areas. The resources were mostly gathered and processed where they occurred but they may have been stored for winter in a kāinga or pā.
19. In one month pipi were collected and kahawai harvested at the best locations for these resources. At another, the people moved inland perhaps to plant kūmara and other crops on some sunny northward facing slope best suited to horticulture. At other times the pigeons and berries were at their best, and they moved into temporary camps in the forest areas to exploit both. The next month might be the kelp season on the coast. The following year they would repeat the whole round of planting, gathering, harvesting and processing the different resources.
20. Hēnare Matua (nineteenth century Ngāti Kahungunu leader and politician), in evidence to the Native Land Court, gave the names of many pā and settlements around Pōrangahau. He also named various cultivations, sources of fern root, places where birds and rats were taken, karaka groves and sources of raupō. He identified nine pā tuna and indicated that there were many others shared by Ngāti Kere, Ngāti Manuhiri and Ngāti Hinetewai.
21. The Pōrangahau Estuary is listed as an Area of Significant Conservation Value by Hawke's Bay Regional Council. This also identifies significant cultural values around mahinga kai sites and states that 20 fishing sites existed between Pōrangahau township and the sea. The estuary continues to be an important source of flatfish, kahawai, eels and whitebait for tāngata whenua.

Pā, Kāinga, ara

22. Ballara states that at various times the people of Pōrangahau built and occupied at least 19 pā. Some of these were occupied by single hapū; others were shared by two hapū or used in common.
23. On the southern bank of the river is Opiango, a peak sacred to Ngāti Pīhere on which a pā was located.
24. A pā named Pipitawai on a small spit of land running between the river and the coast called Puketauhū.
25. Between the river mouth and the current village of Pōrangahau, four riverside pā were once located. These were called Te Makahue, Te Manga, Oreorewaia and Kahotai.

- 26. Mangamaire was a place many canoes were made by Ngāti Kere and Ngāti Manuhiri; Kere's son Te Ahurangi had given the order for their construction.
- 27. Orākai-ō-roa was a place for making nets.

Conflict

- 28. Huatokitoki Stream flows through the Matai Moana Scenic Reserve. The land around Huatokitoki, including the reserve, was part of that gifted to cement a peace arrangement between Ngāti Kere and Ngāi Te Ao.

Rohe Boundary

- 29. The Deed of Settlement identifies that the river has always been a marker for land division. For instance, Te Angiangi gifted coastal land from the Pōrangahau River southwards to Te Whatuiāpiti in return for a feast that the latter had held for him. The land in this area is associated with Te Whatuiāpiti's descendant hapū Ngāti Kere and Ngāti Hinetewai. Ngāti Manuhiri retain their land on the northern side of the river.

Archaeology

- 30. Pōrangahau Estuary is recognised as rich in archaeological sites, and provided the first authenticated records of moa hunter occupation in the North Island. Vast shell middens are situated in the dune systems, and pā occur at either end of the estuary.
- 31. Figure 3 identifies archaeological sites in close proximity to the Pōrangahau River.



Figure 3: Archaeological Sites in close proximity to Pōrangahau River

Statutory Acknowledgement Area of Interest

32. Figure 4 details the Heretaunga Tamatea Area of Interest.



Figure 4: Heretaunga Tamatea Area of Interest

Resource Management Plans

33. The following tables list any relevant resource management plans developed by iwi/hapū, the regional council or territorial authorities. The tables include any specific provisions that apply to the Pōrangahau River. They do not include all of the general policies or rules that may apply. Water quality and water quantity provisions have been included as it is recognised that these aspects can significantly impact on cultural values.

Iwi and Hapū Resource Management Plans

- Kahungunu ki Uta, Kahungunu ki Tai: Marine & Freshwater Fisheries Strategic Plan
- Ngāti Hori Freshwater Resources Management Plan 2009-12, Operation Patiki Kohupātiki Marae
- Mana Ake - An Expression of Kaitiakitanga, Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga

Regional Resource Management Plan

- Rivers Considered for Riparian Protection (Schedule 8)

Regional Coastal Environment Plan

- Specific water quality standards apply to Pōrangahau River Catchment
 - 200 Faecal Coliforms (cfu/100ml)
 - 50 Suspended Solids (mg/l)
- Estuary is within Significant Conservation Area 1 (SCA1)
- Estuary is within the Coastal Environment Inland Boundary
- Estuary is within the Vegetation Clearance Management Area

Central Hawke’s Bay District Plan

- Schedule of Archaeological Sites, Reference Numbers 195 – 206 (Appendix F)
- Requirement for Esplanade Reserves or Esplanade Strips